

Nelly Was a Lady

by Stephen Foster (1849)

$A(\frac{1}{2})$ $D(\frac{1}{2})$ $B7(\frac{1}{2})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $E(\frac{1}{2})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $Bm(\frac{1}{4})$ $E7(\frac{1}{4})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$
 Down on de Mississippi float - ing, long time I trabble on de way,
 $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $D(\frac{1}{2})$ $B7(\frac{1}{2})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $E(\frac{1}{2})$ A $Bm(\frac{1}{4})$ $E7(\frac{1}{4})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$
 All night de cottonwood a tot - ing, sing for my true lub all de day.

$A(\frac{1}{2})$ $D(\frac{1}{2})$ $Bm(\frac{1}{4})$ $B7(\frac{1}{4})$ $E(\frac{1}{2})$
 Nelly was a lady, Last night she died,
 $A(\frac{1}{2})$ $D(\frac{1}{2})$ $A(\frac{1}{4})$ $E7(\frac{1}{4})$ $A(\frac{1}{2})$
 Toll de bell for lubly Nell, my dark Virginny bride.

A D $B7$ A E A Bm $E7$ A
 Down on del Mis-sis-sip-pi float - ing Long time I trab-ble on de way.

A D $B7$ A E A Bm $E7$ A
 All night de cot-ten-wood a to - ting. Sing for my tru-lub all de day.

A D Bm $B7$ E A D A $E7$ A
 Nel-ly was a la-dy, last night she died. Toll the bell for lub-ly Nell, my dark Vir-gin-ny bride.

Now I'm unhappy, and I'm weeping, can't tote de cottonwood no more;
 Last night, while Nelly was a sleeping, death came a knockin' at de door.

When I saw my Nelly in de morning, smile till she open'd up her eyes,
 Seem'd like de light ob day a dawning, jist 'fore de sun begin to rise.

Close by de margin ob de water, whar de lone weeping willow grows,
 Dar lib'd Virginny's lubly daughter; dar she in death may find repose.

Down in de meadow, 'mong de clober, walk wid my Nelly by my side;
 Now all dem happy days am ober, f
 arewell, my dark Virginny bride.

Nelly was a lady, last night she died,
 Toll de bell for lubly Nell, my dark Virginny brid